

Fintech: B2C Payments, POS financing and **BNPL** in Uzbekistan

**KPMG Caucasus and Central Asia** 

April 2024



### **Table of contents**

Contacts

01	Macroeconomic overview	3
02	Financial sector overview	6
03	B2C Payments	9
04	B2C POS Financing and Buy Now, Pay Later	18



30

## O1 Macroeconomic overview

### **Unveiling Uzbekistan: Key Facts**



5.5%

Real GDP growth rate (annual %) in GDP



8.8%

Inflation Rate (annual %) in Uzbekistan



**\$2,468** (+9.4%)

**GDP** per Capita



36,800 ths

(+2.2% YTD)

Population of

Uzbekistan

14,393 ths (+0.7% YTD)

% of population aged between 15-39 as of May 26, 2023<sup>(b)</sup>



23,533 ths (+5.2% YOY)

# of Internet Users in Uzbekistan as of December 31, 2022



Retail Market Size in Uzbekistan(c)

\$543-605mln (+75-95% YOY)

E-commerce Market size(d)

#### Foreign Direct Investments (FDI) in Uzbekistan, USDbn



#### **Employment statistics**



**\$290** (+15.8% YOY)

Average monthly wage in 2022



Unemployment Rate Uzbekistan as of December 31, 2022<sup>(b)</sup>

(a) The figures are given as of 31 December 2023 unless otherwise stated

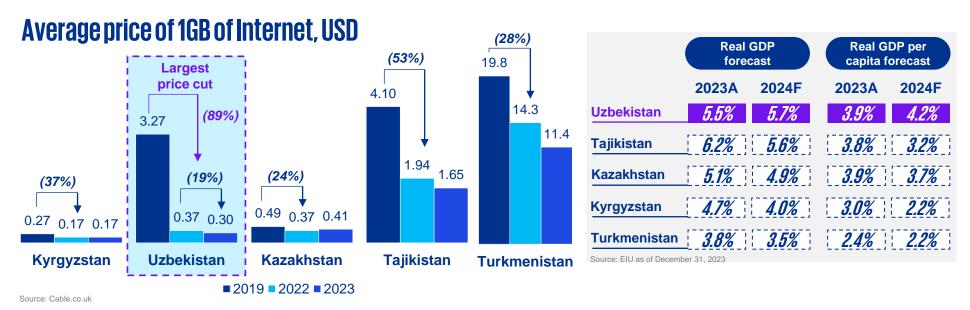
(c) KPMG applied its own methodology to build the market volume model and forecast retail market size

(d) KPMG applied its own methodology to build the market volume model and forecast e-commerce market size

Sources: Statistics Agency of Uzbekistan, KPMG report: E-commerce in Uzbekistan, EIU, KPMG Analysis, Euromonitor



# Uzbekistan's population has the best opportunities to access digital economy in the region



### Goal set by the strategy "Digital Uzbekistan - 2030":

Coverage of households with mobile broadband network, % 2022

**78%** 

2025 and beyond planned 100%

### 20 to 59 year-olds represent 57% of Uzbekistan's population – potentially bankable segment

Source: Statistics Committee of Uzbekistan, KPMG analysis

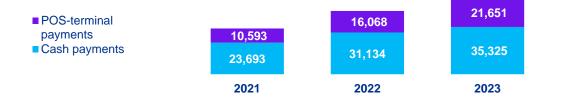




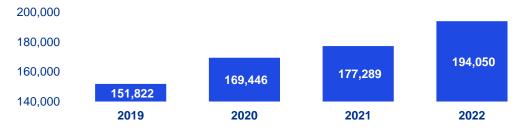
# O2 Financial Sector overview

# KPI dynamics indicate strong growth potential for digital payments and BNPL segments

#### Cash and POS Terminal payments in Uzbekistan<sup>(a)</sup>, USDm



#### Retail enterprises, quantity



#### Consumer loans in local currency to population(b), USDm



**50%**POS Terminal payments
CAGR over 2021-2023

8.5%
Retail enterprises CAGR
over 2019-2022

66% Consumer loans CAGR over 2020-2023

Notes:

(a) Cash payments represent cash inflow into bank cash registers

(b) Consumer loans represent total amounts issued for the period; mortgages, auto and educational loans, microloans, microlinancing, overdraft segments are not included Sources: Central Bank of the Republic of Uzbekistan, interviews with BNPL providers including market leaders in Uzbekistan, open sources, KPMG Analysis



### The Government of Uzbekistan shows commitment to develop the country's fintech industry



#### 2017

#### National Action Strategy on Five Priority **Development Areas 2017-2021:**

for the first time, the government started attracting investments for the state-own banks selling the banks' shares to foreign investors

#### 2023

#### **Capitalization requirements**

for banks and payment organizations, regulating that if foreign investor wants to own 100% in local payment organization in Uzbekistan, they must have a similar license abroad and 400 thousand USD of charter capital



#### 2019

Law on payment systems introduced a concept creating space for new companies. Most of payment services started operating, creating the market competition in Uzbekistan



#### 2019-2020

#### **National Information and Communication System Development:**

the government's privatization program stimulated the flow of investments to the country. COVID-19 contributed to building trust in digital banking systems



#### 2022

#### Presidential decree for payment system operators:

obligates operators to be connected to online cash register with integration to the information systems of tax authorities with the main objective to decrease shadow economy



#### 2022-2026

#### Development Strategy of New Uzbekistan for 2022-2026:

implementing digital transformation in national economy, industry and society. Increase the level of digitalization of operational processes for the banking sector



#### Digital Uzbekistan - 2030:

2030

All mandatory government payments in the form of fees and fines are carried out through the online payment services

KPMG Analysis, open sources, Spot.uz



# 03 B2C Payments

Landscape of Payments in Uzbekistan	10	
TPV growth forecast	15	

### Click, Payme and Uzum Bank are premier fintech companies in the non-cash transactions market

- Click and Payme were market leaders in 2022 in terms of total value of transactions among payment organizations. In 2023, Click's and Payme's total transaction values increased by 36% and 42% respectively (in USD)
- Most transaction volume among payment organizations comes from P2P transfers, while non-cash payments (POS-terminal payments and internet acquiring) are a primary type of cashless transaction among bank customers
- Volumes in 2022 stand out relative to previous years due to significant influx of remittances from immigrants

#### Estimated non-cash payments and P2P volume in 2022, USDm

#### **Payment** organizations

Main players

Click 3.832

**Payme** 2.545

4.125 USDm

Total Market

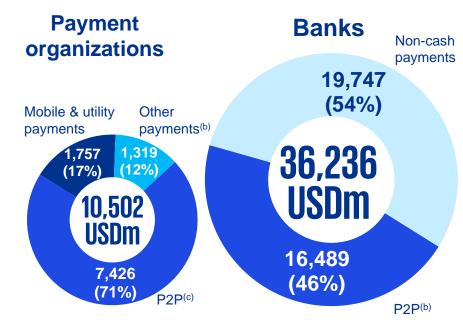
Others

#### **Banks**

**Uzum Bank** 6.519 USDm

30,381USDm

#### Market breakdown by type of services, 2022, %



(b) Other payments include payments for internet services, government services, loan repayments, transportation services, electronic wallets, on-site payments, and others

(c) P2P transactions between individuals made through fintech companies or banks. Estimated share by KPMG Sources: CBU, KPMG analysis

(a) Includes B2C P2P transfers and non-cash payments processed through Uzum Bank's system by other companies Sources: CBU's report "Review of payment systems", 2022; CBU's 2022 annual report; bank's website, annual Reports of TBC Bank, open sources, interviews, data provided by Uzum Bank



# Click and Payme are market leaders in the fintech payments industry, while Uzum Bank stands out as the leading digital bank

	Click	Payme	Uzum Bank
Monthly active users (MAU) <sup>(a)</sup>	5 mln (2023)	3.3 mln (2023)	1.4 mln (2023)
Number of accounts	15 mln <sup>(b)</sup> (2023)	11.6 mln (2023)	>5 mln (2022)
Transactions	>450 mln (2023)	~111 mln in 2021	~55 mln in 2021
Merchants connected	>76 000 (2023), >5.2k active merchants	73 600 (2023), 4.5k active merchants	n/a
Number of employees	>400	>350	>200
Registration year	2011	2011	2021

Notes:

(a) MAU refers to the number of users who logged into the application at least once during the month

(b) Includes telegram-bot and USSD codes users

Sources: Companies' websites, orginfo.uz, interviews with market players, CBU, annual Reports of TBC Bank, open sources

Payme is a digital payments provider owned by TBC Bank Group PLC. TBC Bank Group PLC is also a holding company of TBC UZ, which is a digital bank Uzum Bank operates as a digital bank and holds a banking license. Due to significantly low commission rate in 2022, Uzum Bank had substantial average transaction value and total payment volume consequently

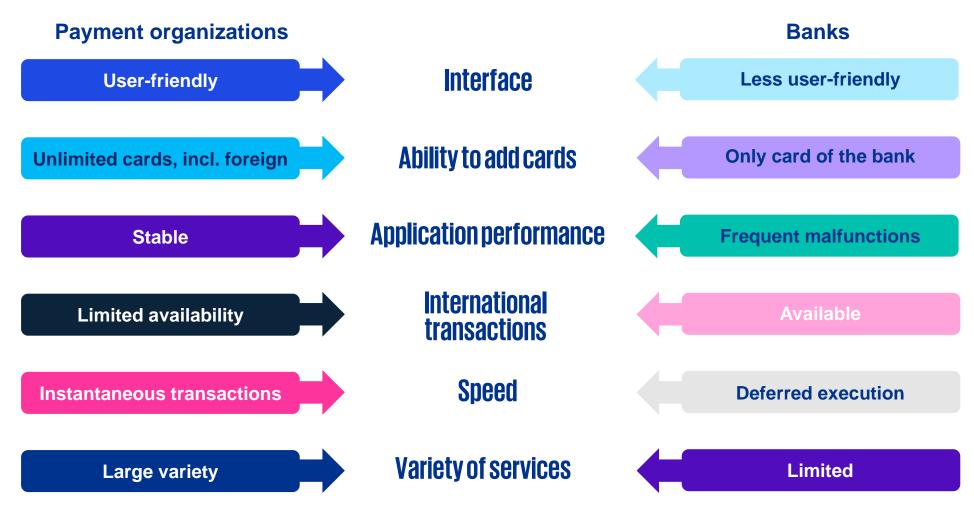
Universal payment companies				
•	Paylov	•	My UZ card	
•	Alif mobi	•	Multicard	
•	Upay	•	Limonpay	
•	lwon	•	Plat	

Payment companies focusing on e-wallets
<ul><li>Interpay</li><li>A-pay</li></ul>
• Oson

Payment companies focusing on cross-border payments
• Payway
• MilliPay
• TezPay
Unired Mobile

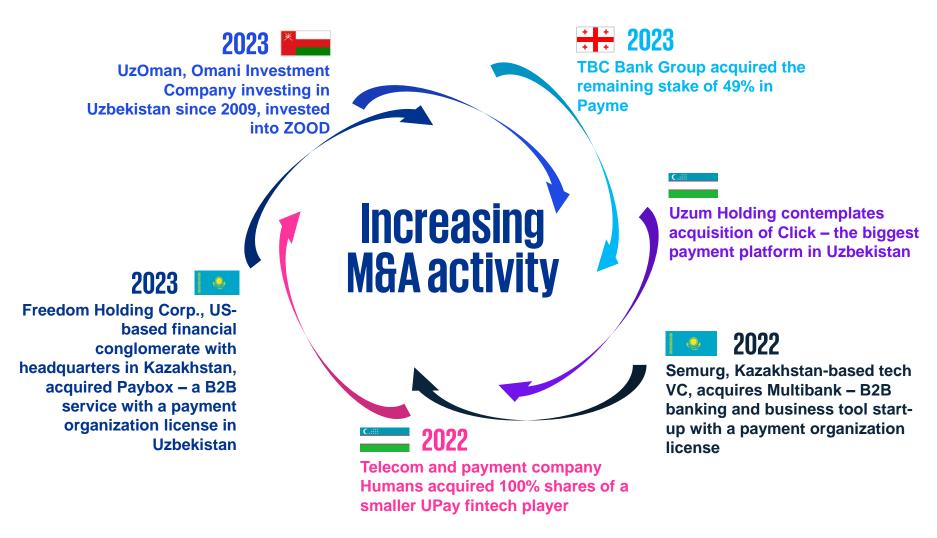


# Applications of most banks are still far behind Fintech in terms of convenience and variety of services for individuals





# Fintech in Uzbekistan sees growing number of acquisitions, increasing consolidation and entry of foreign investors





# Market consolidation will be further driven by regulatory changes expected for fintech sector

- Effective as of July 1, 2024 the required type of ownership for payments systems and organization is JSC
- JSC are required to disclose: quarterly and annual reports, ownership structure, material transactions
- Currently top players operate as limited liability companies (Payme, Click, Humo, Uzcard)



Capital requirement increases to 10UZS billion and 50UZS billion



- Effective as of July 1, 2024 capital requirement for payment organizations is 10UZS billion (currently from 1 to 5 UZS billion)
- Effective as of July 1, 2024
   capital requirement for
   payment systems (Humo,
   Uzcard) is 50UZS billion
   (currently from 10UZS billion)
- Effective as of July 1, 2025
   capital requirement for
   payment organizations will be
   20UZS billion

 National Agency of Perspective Projects of the Republic of Uzbekistan is assigned as a regulator instead of Ministry of digital technology and Ministry of Investments, Industry and Trade



More control over P2P transfers



- More strict control will be imposed on frequent and material P2P transfers
- Tightening control over transfers in favor of suppliers of gambling services

Sources: "Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan on measures to strengthen the protection of consumer rights in digital products (services) and control violations committed through digital technologies"



# Non-cash payments and P2P transactions are expected to increase by an average of 1.9 times with an 18% CAGR over 2023-2027

Non-cash payments and P2P transactions, low-end

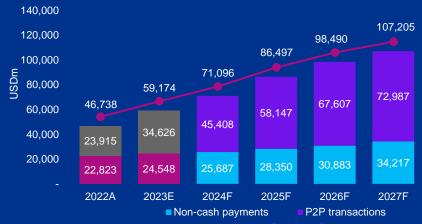
**Non-cash** payments, midpoint:

1.5x

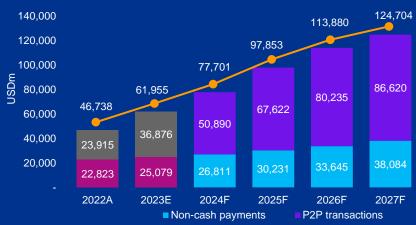
projected average increase by the end of 2027

10% projected average

projected average CAGR over 2023-2027



#### Non-cash payments and P2P transactions, high-end



**P2P** transactions, midpoint:

2.2x

projected average increase by the end of 2027

22%

projected average CAGR over 2023-2027

Notes: Please note that CAGR presented on this page is calculated in USD terms and not in local currency CBU's report "Review of payment systems", 2022; CBU's 2022 annual report; Kaspi.kz, EIU, KPMG Analysis



### Projected non-cash payments as a percentage of GDP

**Lower End and Higher End:** 

29%-33%

projected target non-cash payments as % of GDP by the end of 2027

The target value for 2027 was based on the % of B2C payments to GDP in the Kazakhstan market<sup>(a)</sup>:

- For the low-end scenario, the target value was based on the actual data of 2022
- For the high-end scenario, the target value was based on the projected data of 2027

#### Non-cash payments, low-end



#### Non-cash payments, high-end



Notes:

Average exchange rates of UZS/USD for the forecast period were used in accordance with EIU projections (a) Data was based on Kaspi Prospectus

Central Bank of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Kaspi.kz, EIU, KPMG Analysis



# Total value of P2P transactions is expected to increase by an average of 2.2 times with a 22% CAGR over 2023-2027

P2P transactions (incl. banks and fintech), low-end

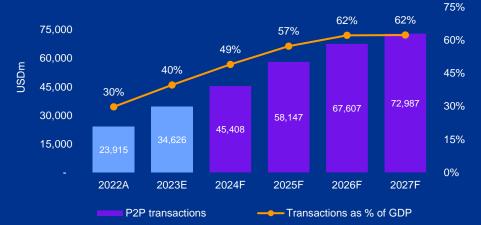
Lower End:

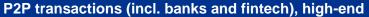
2.1x

P2P transactions projected increase by the end of 2027

20%

P2P transactions projected CAGR over 2023-2027







**Higher End** 

2.3x

P2P transactions projected increase by the end of 2027

24%

P2P transactions projected CAGR over 2023-2027

Notes:

P2P transactions include transactions between individuals made through banks and fintech companies. Total P2P (monetized and non-monetized) 2020-2023 CAGR for Kaspi was used in analysis which was gradually decreased by 2027. Benchmarking of results to relevant metrics in Kazakhstan and Russia was used to cross-check result

Central Bank of the Republic of Uzbekistan. Kaspi,kz. open sources data. EIU. KPMG Analysis





# 04 B2C POS Financing and Buy Now, Pay Later

Landscape of POS financing and Buy Now, Pay Later market in Uzbekistan	19
POS financing and BNPL market features in Uzbekistan	20
GMV growth forecast	25
Investments in the sector	29

### Landscape of POS financing and BNPL market in Uzbekistan

Point-of-Sale (POS) financing has had a presence in Uzbekistan for quite some time. Historically, only individual retailers in the country offered instalment payment options for their merchandise. In 2019-2020 companies in the financial industry started developing their own products bringing processes automatization and aggressively promoting Buy Now, Pay Later (BNPL) payment option in e-commerce and digitalizing POS financing experience online and offline

Given Uzbekistan's significant population (around 37 million people) and its consistent economic development, the country represents a promising landscape for the development of digital and fintech services

~77%

#### Offline GMV share in the combined POS financing and BNPL market 2023(a)

Offline GMV has a larger share than online GMV as it essentially represents POS financing that was present in Uzbekistan long before online options. Ishonch, one of the larger POS financing providers has exclusively offline presence ZOOD, as opposed to other market participants, has a larger online share in its GMV

#### POS financing and BNPL offered by nonfinancial institutions is not regulated as

As BNPL has only recently became a noticeable factor in population's debt burden, targeted regulations have not been introduced yet

(a) According to interviews with market participants

Sources: Open sources data, interviews with BNPL providers including market leaders in Uzbekistan, KPMG Analysis

## **USD450 mln** USD500 mln

Estimated GMV of the combined POS financing and BNPL market in Uzbekistan in 2023

#### Alif Nasiya and Uzum Nasiya had two thirds of the total market GMV in 2023



#### In BNPL profit is made by commissions paid by merchants (up to 10%), in POS financing by mark-ups paid by customers, or by a combination of two

POS financing offerings in Uzbekistan have markup on goods paid by customers. Mark-ups range from 0% to 68% for 3m-12m depending on POS financing provider and the marketplace where services are provided. Some of the market participants provide "classic" no-mark-up 3m-4m BNPL plans where commission is paid by merchants - Uzum Nasiva, Iman, ZOOD and Solfv

High mark-ups in POS financing are a consequence of high cost of funding (>20%) in both local and foreign currencies

#### Mark-up ranges across POS financing market, %



### POS financing and BNPL market features in Uzbekistan



A

Electronics most popular goods category in POS financing and BNPL

Electronics is the most popular goods category in POS financing and BNPL with appliances and fashion-related goods in the top-3 Mark-ups for 12-month plans are mostly 35%-45%

Some market players expect mark-ups to decrease

High mark-ups in

**POS financing** 



B

C

ML-based credit scoring models

Major market participants use proprietary classification machine learning (ML) models to score potential customers

Other market participants use less complex conditional algorithms while developing their own ML-based scoring models Operating through a microfinance organization (MFO) allows to avoid VAT, partner with greater number of merchants, and provide BNPL for services in addition to physical goods



Market participants shift to MFO-based operating model

Top market players have applied for MFO license, Uzum Nasiya and ZOOD hold this license



D



Growth is limited by availability of capital

Market participants fund growth via equity financing and borrowing

Sources: Open sources data, interviews with BNPL providers including market leaders in Uzbekistan, KPMG Analysis



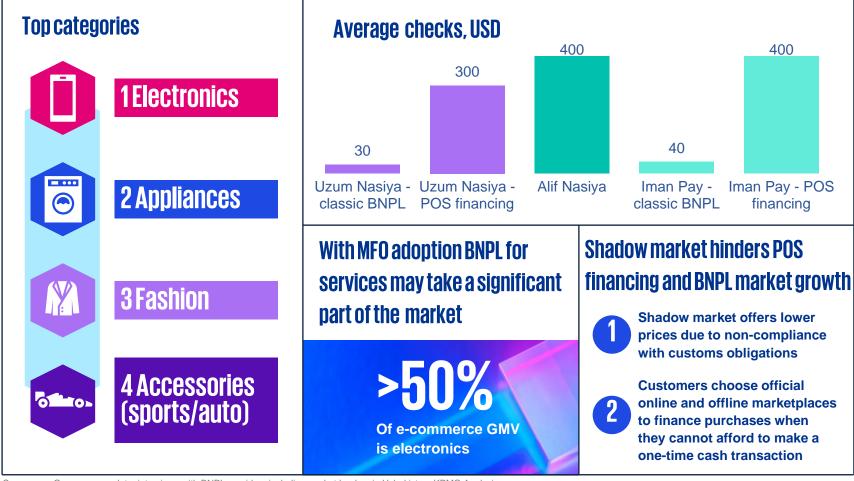








# Electronics is the most popular category for POS financing and BNPL users



Sources: Open sources data, interviews with BNPL providers including market leaders in Uzbekistan, KPMG Analysis













### Mark-ups paid by customers among main market participants

1

#### Market participants expect caps on margins

2

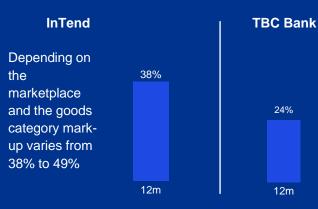
Banks provide lower mark-ups in POS financing combined with lower approval rates













Notes: Mark-ups for Uzum Nasiya, Alif Nasiya, Iman Pay and ZOOD are updated as of February, 2024; mark-ups for InTend, TBC Bank, Anorbank are updated as of April, 2024 based on online marketplaces Open sources data, interviews with BNPL providers including market leaders in Uzbekistan, KPMG Analysis













### Market participants utilize ML-based scoring models making decisions in less than one minute



#### 3 approaches to scoring:

- ML-based model scores and makes a decision on all applications
- ML-based scoring model scores all applications and makes a decision on most of them, the applications that did not qualify are assessed manually
- Scoring model, based on conditional statements screens all applications

#### Scoring models use up to 250 parameters from the following sources:

- Credit bureaus
- Government agencies
- Customer's card transactions
- Customer's behaviour in the marketplace

It takes less than 1 minute to score a customer and make a decision



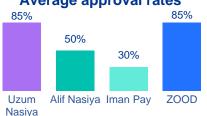
Uzum Nasiya, ZOOD, and Iman Pay utilize proprietary ML-based scoring systems



Alif's GulChatAl - ML-based scoring system scores up to 71% of all applications

**Extensive background checks of** potential customers is a feature not characteristic to "classic" **BNPL** services

### Average approval rates



Market participants with more aggressive strategies have higher approval rates and higher mark-ups to compensate for a riskier strategy

Open sources data, interviews with BNPL providers including market leaders in Uzbekistan, KPMG Analysis













# MFO adoption will widen range of products suitable for POS financing and BNPL while introducing regulatory requirements

- Services like gym membership, dentistry, beauty salons, travel tours can be paid for in installments
- Single-limit installment cards are a convenient way to pay for services, Uzum Nasiya is going to launch one in late 2024



Services can be paid through installments via MFOs

**Exposure to regulatory** requirements



- Sum of mark-ups, commissions, fees cannot be higher than 50% of a loan per year
- Limit for microfinancing amount is UZS100 million from 2024
- Central Bank of Uzbekistan requires MFOs to submit reports on each installment plan provided to customers
- MFO license is recalled if MFO fails to submit correct reports in a limited number of attempts

- According to market participants, many of the smaller merchants avoid invoice-processing obligations
- MFO will allow to work with merchants which do not handle invoices – in that case customers purchase goods using money lent from MFO, as opposed to BNPLproviders buying goods from merchants as legal entities and reselling them

Easier interaction with smaller merchants

No Value-added tax payment



 Beneficial side-effect of MFO adoption is elimination of 12% VAT

Sources: Open sources data, interviews with BNPL providers including market leaders in Uzbekistan, KPMG Analysis



# Market participants in Uzbekistan benefit from growing demand and high mark-ups

**75%** 

YoY growth rate of consumer loans over 2022-2023



higher are the POS financing mark-ups for customers in Uzbekistan than in developed markets(a)



government agencies provide digital information for credit scoring purposes



#### **Demand for better financing options**

High demand for financing options among population due to low approval rates form commercial banks



#### Highly profitable business model

Market participants in Uzbekistan have higher profitability due to a large share of more profitable POS financing



#### Abundance of data for credit scoring

Digitalization of accessible data on government platforms present an opportunity to optimize credit scoring and approval rate strategy

Notes: (a) USA, Europe

Sources: Central Bank of the Republic of Uzbekistan, interviews with BNPL providers including market leaders in Uzbekistan, open sources, KPMG Analysis



# Total GMV is expected to increase by 4.1 times with a 42% CAGR over 2023-2027 on the higher end BNPL and POS financing market size breakdown, low-end

Lower and higher end:

3.6x-4.1x

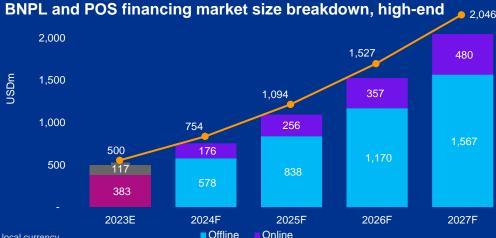
GMV projected increase by the end of 2027

38%-42%

GMV projected CAGR over 2023-2027

CAGR is gradually decreased from Kaspi's BNPL total finance value 2020-2023 CAGR to: median POS financing CAGR for online GMV and median offline POS financing CAGR of comparable countries for 2020-2021(a), based on FIS Global's annual Global Payment Reports





Notes:

Please note that CAGR presented on this page is calculated in USD terms and not in local currency

Total 2023 GMV range was estimated based on interviews with market participants and cross-checked with POS financing and BNPL penetration in retail across comparable countries

(a) After 2021 FIS Global's market size estimation methodology changes

Sources: FIS Global, Kaspi.kz, interviews with BNPL providers including market leaders in Uzbekistan, KPMG Analysis

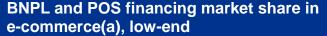


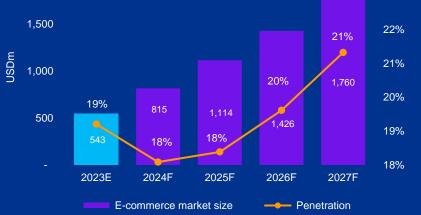
### Projected POS financing and BNPL market share in e-commerce

**Lower End:** 

21%

Projected POS financing and BNPL share in low-end e-commerce market by the end of 2027





### BNPL and POS financing market share in e-commerce(a), high-end



#### **Higher End:**

23%

22%

Projected POS financing and BNPL share in high-end e-commerce market by the end of 2027

Notes: (a) KPMG report "E-commerce in Uzbekistan" dated August, 2023 provided lower-end and higher-end e-commerce market size forecasts

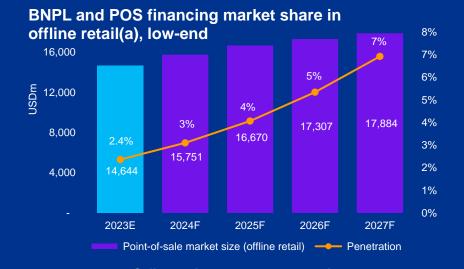
Sources: FIS Global, Kaspi.kz, interviews with BNPL providers including market leaders in Uzbekistan, KPMG "E-commerce in Uzbekistan" report, KPMG Analysis

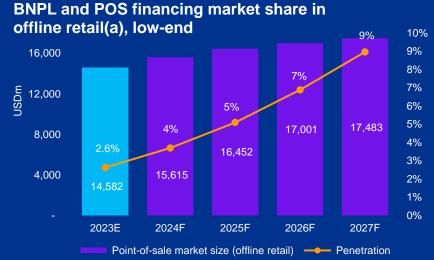


### Projected POS financing and BNPL market share in offline retail

Lower End:

Projected POS financing and BNPL share in offline retail by the end of 2027





**Higher End:** 

Projected POS financing and BNPL share in offline retail by the end of 2027

Notes: (a) Penetration was calculated as a share of POS financing and BNPL GMV in offline retail market

Sources: FIS Global, Kaspi.kz, interviews with BNPL providers including market leaders in Uzbekistan, KPMG "E-commerce in Uzbekistan" report, KPMG Analysis













# Primary way of raising capital among POS financing and BNPL providers is direct investments

2022

2024

2021

#### June

 ZOOD raised USD38 million in Series B fundraising round

#### July

 Alif raised USD8 million in equity and USD50 million in debt from Jefferson Capital Holdings Limited in Series A fundraising round

#### **September**

 TBC UZ raised USD18.8 million from EBRD and IFC

#### **February**

 Iman raised USD1 million from venture capital firms and investment funds

#### **August**

 TBC UZ raised USD35.1 million from EBRD, IFC and TBC Bank Group PLC

#### **April**

 Iman raised capital from 500 Global venture capital fund and angel investors

2023

 TBC UZ raised USD28.1 million from EBRD, IFC and TBC Bank Group PLC

#### June

UzOman became one of the investors of ZOOD

#### **November**

 Alif announced plans to raise USD50 million through islamic Sukuk bond sales with expected return of 12%

#### **February**

 ZOOD raised USD20 million in a funding round

#### March

 Uzum raised USD52 million in equity at a USD1.16 billion valuation and USD62 million in debt in Series A fundraising round led by FinSight Ventures, becoming the first tech unicorn in Uzbekistan

Sources: Open sources data, interviews with BNPL providers in Uzbekistan, KPMG Analysis



### **Team**



Vitaliy
Yakovlev
Partner
Deal Advisory,
KPMG Caucasus and
Central Asia

vitaliyyakovlev@kpmg.com



Farrukh
Abdullakhanov
Partner
Head of Advisory,
KPMG Uzbekistan

fabdullakhanov@kpmg.com



Dilnoza
Mirzoeva
Manager
Deal Advisory,
KPMG Caucasus and
Central Asia

dilnozamirzoeva@kpmg.kz



#### kpmg.com

The information contained herein is of a general nature and is not intended to address the circumstances of any particular individual or entity. Although we endeavor to provide accurate and timely information, there can be no guarantee that such information is accurate as of the date it is received or that it will continue to be accurate in the future. No one should act on such information without appropriate professional advice after a thorough examination of the particular situation

© 2024 KPMG Valuation and Consulting LLC, a company incorporated under the Laws of the Republic of Uzbekistan, a member firm of the KPMG global organization of independent member firms affiliated with KPMG International Limited, a private English company limited by guarantee. All rights reserved.

The KPMG name and logo are trademarks used under license by the independent member firms of the KPMG global organization

**Document Classification: KPMG Public**